


RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

Annual Reports

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

AND

**SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR 1969.

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
(as at December, 1969)

Chairman: Councillor M.B. Nicol

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Maj.Gen. D.D.C. Tulloch

Councillor C.G. Buckland

Councillor W.A. Edwards

Councillor G.F. Kunkler

Councillor A.W. Sadler

Councillor R.N. Swanton

(Chairman of the Council)

Councillor R.J. Butler

Councillor J.S. Haines

Councillor Mrs. B.G. Osborne

Councillor J.A. Whitmarsh

Councillor Brig. G. Wort, C.B.E., D.L.

(Vice-Chairman of the Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F.D.F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Clerk (M.O.H. Office)

Miss G.M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough.

Tel: Marlborough 2487 and 2474

Senior Public Health Inspector:

T.F. Harding, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

H.W. Gillian, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

L.T. Jones

Rodent Operator:

P.N. Raisey

Clerk (R.D.C. Office)

Miss S. Baker

Public Health Department, Council Offices,

The Old Rectory, Pewsey, Wilts.

Tel: Pewsey 2261/2/3

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough, and the Rural Districts of Amesbury, and Marlborough and Ramsbury. These combined districts have a population of 73,590 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, The East Wilts(United Districts) Joint M.O.H. Committee to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.



East Wilts (United Districts) M.O.H. Office,
1 The Green,
Marlborough.

Tel: Marlborough 2487/2474

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1969, which is compiled on similar lines as last year to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I am grateful to Mr. Harding, the Senior Public Health Inspector for his report which is included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer for supplying details of immunisation procedures carried out.

The Rural District with the parish of Pewsey situated close to its centre, at a distance of seven miles south of Marlborough, is very largely concerned with agriculture and agricultural pursuits. However, it also contains large Ministry of Defence establishments wherein a considerable number of civilian residents find their employment. The district is traversed for a great deal of its extent by the River Avon and its twin sources, together with its tributary the River Bourne. The countryside is extremely attractive, many of its parishes present a very old world character, and has a considerable attraction for visitors.

During the year the general health of the district has given little cause for concern. There has been a reduction in the increase in the estimated mid-year population, which has been running for some years at over 1,000, to about half, at 490, slightly more than the natural increase, excess of births over deaths, which amounts to 403. The number of births have increased by 51. The illegitimate birth rate, based on 27 births, one more than last year, remains at 5 per cent of all births. This compares with 8 per cent for the national average, but is only slightly lower than the highest rate recorded locally in 1967. There is no doubt that permissiveness and promiscuity are as closely related as horse racing and betting, or that promiscuity is an important factor in determining the illegitimate birth rate and the rising incidence of venereal disease. One wonders whether some of the influential enthusiasts for this controversial contemporary trend fully realise the problems facing the teenage unmarried mother, and the "built in" handicaps for the average child of the unsupported mother, particularly where intelligence is low. Although a great deal is, and no doubt more could be done to ease these difficulties, it is hard to see how they can be entirely cancelled out in any organised society.

The number of deaths are virtually unchanged. The infant mortality rate based on ten deaths, one more than last year, equals that of the national average when adjusted, but the number of still births, at nineteen per 1,000 total births, is well above the figure for England and Wales. Proportionally the biggest increase in deaths has been a rise in accidental deaths, in all ten, three of which were due to road traffic accidents. In one instance a girl of five years of age died as a result of her nightdress catching alight. This is an accident which should not happen today, since while pyjamas are safer than a nightdress, all nightdresses sold must be made of flame resistant material. Unfortunately one can still obtain material for home dressmaking which is highly dangerous when made into nightdresses and party frocks. It is not always realised too, that it is important that in home dressmaking not only should material be flame resistant, but the sewing thread should also be flame resistant, since ordinary thread can act as a wick and make flame resistant material combustible. It is of course a statutory requirement to have a fire

guard where children are at risk, but the lack of these are often only brought to light when a tragedy occurs. Of the 36 deaths due to malignant disease, eight were due to cancer of the lung, and for the first time the number of deaths in men equals those in women. It is probable that none of these deaths would have occurred if it were not for the cigarette smoking habit. Inevitably an annual report tends to be repetitive. However, I make no apology for again drawing attention to the grim health hazard posed by the cigarette, more especially as there have been recent articles in the national press which tend to confuse by casting doubt on the relationship between the cigarette smoking habit and these serious dangers to health. There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind, nor that of the medical profession as a whole, that the relationship is real, and that it is an urgent matter to dissuade the younger generation from starting a habit which is extremely difficult to break. In nine case out of ten the cigarette is the cause, for practical purposes, of cancer of the lung, which is now responsible for nearly a third of all cancer deaths from whatever cause, in this country. At present the deaths are predominantly in men, but the incidence in women is rising fast. Two thirds of all cases of lung cancer die within a year of diagnosis, and death from lung cancer is probably, in general, the most unpleasant of all deaths from any form of cancer, always painful, frequently severely so, distressing for the patient, and a harrowing experience for the relatives. Those who stop smoking reduce the risk for themselves immediately, provided they remain non smokers. At the end of the first year the risk is reduced to half, and is progressively reduced in subsequent years. If parents smoke it is almost certain that their children will smoke, whereas if they are non smokers their children are less likely to do so. I appeal to parents to consider whether, if they are not prepared to reduce the risks purely on their own account, that they should consider doing so for the sake of their children. More important is the increased liability, which the cigarette smoker has to incur a heart attack due to coronary thrombosis, and recent figures suggest that in general the ten cigarette a day smoker doubles his chances, the twenty cigarette a day smoker doubles his chances again, and so on up to forty a day. Here again those who stop smoking undoubtedly reduce the risk of developing coronary thrombosis. In chronic bronchitis, a disease, which is a major scourge in this country in middle and old age, the cigarette is an extremely important factor.

Notifications of infectious disease were low. There were however 29 notified cases of infective jaundice, of which 24 were in the Tidworth Garrison, compared with last years freak figure of 104 due to the extensive outbreak in Pewsey Hospital. It has now been standard practice for some years to use human immunoglobulin to give passive immunity to family contacts in all my districts. I have no doubt that this is a justifiable policy, as long as the supply of immunoglobulin is available, since household contacts are at greatest risk, and I have been impressed by the number of instances in which the disease, in adults particularly, has been severe. Immunoglobulin may not prevent infection with the virus, and this is sub judice. However, it certainly often prevents clinical disease and given at any time in the incubation period, the earlier the more effective, will reduce the severity of an attack. Notifications of measles were up. Sixty cases were notified as against 15 in 1968. Unfortunately vaccination against measles had to be suspended for a time due to the decision to withdraw the vaccine made by one of the two pharmaceutical firms concerned. There is little doubt that we have the means now in our hands to eliminate this disease, which in spite of the fact that it is usually mild, sometimes gives rise to unpleasant complications, and in recent years has been the leading infectious disease as a cause of death. In December an epidemic of influenza occurred locally as part of the national epidemic. It has been my practice to undertake the vaccination of the staff of all my Councils against influenza, with the object of protecting the continuity of essential services, particularly those operated by outdoor staff such as refuse collection, who are liable to need a longer period of convalescence. At the time of writing some assessment has been made of the results of this procedure which shows that protection was very good indeed, particularly where two doses had been given. Of 164 who were unvaccinated, 41 went down with influenza during the period of the epidemic. Of the 85 who were vaccinated in January 1969, and again in the Autumm of 1969, all escaped the disease. Out of 27 who were vaccinated once only in the Autumm of 1969, 7 were off sick, an attack rate which is the same as the unvaccinated, although it may be that their illness was on the whole less severe.

Immunisation returns are slightly higher than last year, but still well below what they ought to be in respect of diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis. Every effort is made by the County Health Department to ensure that parents are notified when the various procedures are due, and appointments are made either at County Council Clinics or at the family doctors surgeries, whichever is preferred. I feel it is important to underline the need for parents to avail themselves of this protection for their children if we are to continue to maintain the freedom from diphtheria and poliomyelitis which we have enjoyed for some considerable number of years.

One incident involving a herd infected with brucellosis where some of the milk was sold raw caused a good deal of work. On this occasion it was clear that the weight of infection had overcome the immunity derived from vaccination with S19. I hope that the current eradication policy will result in this disease ceasing to be a problem in the agricultural community, but the rate of progress, slow at present, is difficult to foresee. I am glad to know however, that it is now, albeit overdue, an offence to dispose of an infected animal in the open market. I should very much like to see this disease made notifiable in humans. In the meantime one can only advise people to drink pasteurised milk, which is readily available all over the district. The same advice is applicable also to cream, particularly as legislation in respect of cream, in my opinion, is not as strong as it should be. With regard to salmonella infections in animals, we are now getting reports direct from the Divisional Veterinary Officer, which is most helpful. All such instances are investigated with a view to identifying any dissemination to those in attendance on the animals.

In his report the Senior Public Health Inspector has pointed out in the section on housing, that both the number of tenancy applications and the number classified as urgent have risen. In recent years housing authorities have come in for criticism, a great deal of it uninformed. The underlying grounds for this are due almost entirely directly or indirectly to the shortage of housing, over which in general, housing authorities have little or no control. Housing shortage is due, in the main, to the lack of necessary finance which is reflected in strict ministerial annual building allocations, and to a lesser extent to the lack of other associated resources including difficulties in obtaining suitable land for building purposes. Some European countries have eased their housing shortage by compulsory billeting, but this is not a realistic solution in this country. There is no doubt that a great deal of ill health, albeit often difficult to assess, arises as a result of inadequate housing accommodation. This is particularly true in respect of mental health, where the strain imposed may often have a long lasting effect on the well being of the family as a whole. There were no evictions from any Council property as a result of rent arrears. Another popular myth seems to be that housing authorities tend to be "trigger happy" when it comes to taking steps to evict families for non-payment of rent. I am glad that the Council, as I am sure most housing authorities do, always uses every avenue open to them in the persuasive field to obtain payment of rent arrears before resorting to the ultimate sanction of eviction where children are concerned. Nevertheless, I plead for some alternative effective measure to be made available to housing authorities, perhaps on the basis on an Order to make an "attachment on earnings". Failure to take prompt action to deal with rent arrears leads inevitably to it becoming an epidemic, while the eviction of a family from Council property is an important milestone on the road to its disintegration. Housing authorities should not be placed on the horns of this dilemma, since clearly whatever they do is liable to come in for criticism. In his excellent analysis of housing applicants, Mr. Harding has highlighted the pressure on the waiting list as a result of the high numbers of Servicemen who have applied to this Council for accommodation. I feel that the resettlement of Servicemen, particularly those who have served a long engagement, is a national problem and needs more consideration by the Ministries concerned. This inflated pressure on our waiting list is bad, both for the district and for the applicants, many of whom, I have no doubt, would be better settled elsewhere, where the skills which they have acquired can be more easily absorbed to their advantage and to that of Industry.

The grouped accommodation warden scheme, Aston House at Pewsey was completed and is another outstanding success following the earlier scheme at Ludgershall. I have no doubt that more of this type of accommodation is needed for the elderly, not necessarily only the disabled elderly and particularly for the single old person. I am sure that we are still learning in the field of housing. No future schemes should

be put in hand without a two way speech call communication, as provided in these schemes, and this Council has already pioneered the enlarged kitchen to deal with the meals on wheels service. It may be that future flatlet schemes should not be less than 40 or more, and that at this level of numbers a lift should be provided. It should not be forgotten that by rehousing the elderly who are living in accommodation, either private or council, which is too large for them, we are often making available accommodation for a young growing family. In this connection I believe that there should be financial incentive for people to move to smaller accommodation when their families have left them and grown up, and thus obviate a move in old age when a move is often an ordeal. This means that more suitable accommodation is necessary to further such a policy.

I am very glad indeed that the Council have supported the organisation of the two co-ordinating old persons welfare committees over the years, both of which are doing very valuable work. We are particularly grateful too for the work put in by voluntary helpers in the meals on wheels services, who continue to do an excellent job often under difficulties.

Water supply has given little cause for concern. The public supply at Wootton Rivers is to be replaced, as is also the private supply at Alton Priors, by a main supply. Both these improvements I welcome, as they will resolve a situation for which I have had some concern in the past.

I am very grateful to the members of the Council for their continued support and for the kindness and co-operation of all the officers of the Council in a year fraught with difficulties and uncertainty, in which the shadow cast by impending reorganisation has been a major factor. The future of Public Health is very much in the melting pot, and although some changes are desirable, I feel that we are in danger in some respects of "throwing out the baby with the bath water". I regret any dissociation in the relationship between the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectorate, a view, I believe, shared by many of the rank and file, in view of its certain adverse effect on environmental health in its widest context at a time when "conservation" is a topic very much to the fore in the minds of many thinking people. The organisation of Public Health with a Medical Officer of Health exercising general direction over the work of the Public Health Inspectorate, a pattern adopted by many progressive countries, has contributed very largely to the position that in the light of current knowledge we are in this country at least aware of our pollution problems, both nationally and locally, and have been able to find a satisfactory solution to many of them, in spite of difficulties posed either by their complexity, or the lack of necessary finance. Sometimes the reasons why action to improve public health is not implemented are difficult to understand. Fluoridation is a case in point, since this well proven public health measure would reduce the appalling amount of dental caries by approximately 50 per cent in the rising generation at trivial cost relative to the cost of dental disease, with complete safety. I am concerned too, at the trend which will inevitably reduce medical influence in the Social Services field, since I am convinced that this is not in the best interests of those members of the public who need help.

Finally I should specifically like to thank Mr. Harding and his staff, Dr. Lishman for acting as my Deputy, Dr. Wormald and his staff of the Public Health Laboratory for their continued help and frequent valued advice, and my secretary, Miss Boswell for her help and co-operation, particularly for her work in preparing this annual report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	75,828
Number of Parishes	25
Population, Registrar-General's mid-year estimate	26,020
Number of inhabited houses and flats	7,333
Number of inhabited houses and flats owned by the Council	1,598
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1969	£687,957
Product of penny rate	£2,767

Vital Statistics

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births - legitimate	275	265	540
illegitimate	12	15	27
Totals	287	280	567
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			21.8
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births			5.0
Stillbirths - legitimate	8	3	11
illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	8	3	11
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total and live stillbirths			19.0
Total live and stillbirths - legitimate	283	268	551
illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	283	268	551
Deaths	92	72	164
Death rate per 1,000 population			6.3
Infant deaths under one year - legitimate	3	7	10
illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	7	10
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			18.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			19.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil
Neonatal deaths (under four weeks) - legitimate	2	3	5
illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	3	5
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live births			9.0
Early neonatal deaths (under one week) - legitimate	1	3	4
illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	3	4
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			7.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			26.0

Year

Infant deaths
Infant mortality rate

1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
5	8	10	9	10
10.5	18.3	22.0	17.0	18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1969

Cause of Death		Male	Female	Total
B19(2)	Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	1
B19(3)	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
B19(4)	Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	1	2
B19(6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	4	8
B19(7)	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
B19(8)	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
B19(9)	Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-	2
B19(10)	Leukaemia	2	1	3
B19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms	6	7	13
B21	Diabetes mellitus	-	2	2
B46(1)	Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
B46(3)	Mental disorders	-	1	1
B46(4)	Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	2	3	5
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	1	4
B27	Hypertensive disease	2	-	2
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	23	9	32
B29	Other forms of heart disease	4	7	11
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	11	10	21
B46(5)	Other diseases of circulatory system	7	1	8
B31	Influenza	1	-	1
B32	Pneumonia	3	4	7
B33(1)	Bronchitis and emphysema	6	2	8
B46(6)	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
B34	Peptic ulcer	1	1	2
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
B46(7)	Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
B46(8)	Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	1
B46(9)	Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	1	-	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	-	1	1
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-	1
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	2	3
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
BE48	All other accidents	5	2	7
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1	1
BE50	All other external causes	-	1	1
Total of all causes		92	72	164

Comparison with England and Wales

Pewsey R.D.

England and Wales

per 1,000 population		per 1,000 Live Births	per 1,000 Total Births
Live Births (Adjusted)	Death Rate (Adjusted)	Infant Mortality	Stillbirths
22.7	8.6	18.0	19.0
16.3	11.9	18.0	13.0

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1969

	Total cases	Admitted to hospital	Total deaths	Analysis of total cases in age group											Age unknown	
				Under one year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 65		65 +
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-
Infective jaundice	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3	2	4	1	3	-	-
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	60	-	-	4	9	7	9	6	23	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relapsing fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	103	1	-	4	10	8	9	8	39	8	7	5	1	4	-	-

IMMUNISATION AND SMALLPOX VACCINATION STATISTICS, 1969

Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Measles and Poliomyelitis Immunisation

Year of Birth		1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1960-64	1954-59	Others under 16
Primary imms. during 1969	Diph.	212	128	10	3	4	14	1	-
	Wh/cough	212	127	7	3	4	2	-	-
	Tetanus	212	128	10	4	5	15	3	1
	Measles	-	22	35	15	2	66	3	-
	Polio.	194	138	14	5	4	48	2	-
Reinforcing imms. given in 1969	Diph.	-	88	117	8	7	432	12	2
	Wh/cough	-	77	78	6	1	17	1	1
	Tetanus	-	88	117	8	7	447	35	28
	Polio.	-	67	106	10	10	292	19	-

Smallpox vaccinations

Age Group	<u>Months</u>				<u>Years</u>		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	-	1	1	145	91	17
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	14	51

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

Council Offices,
The Old Rectory,
Pewsey,
Wilts.

Telephone - 2261.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

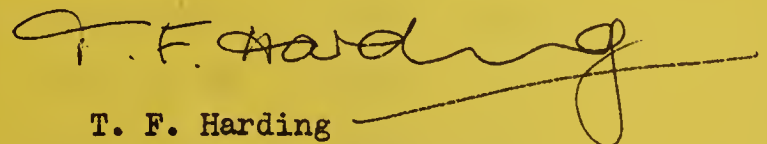
I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1969, this being the 15th such Report that I have written.

In my report for 1968 I pointed out that the 5,702 visits made by your officers during that year was an all-time record. Members will note from the Table of Inspections and Visits given on page 4 that this record was easily broken during 1969, and there seems to be no foreseeable end to the increase. Public Health Departments in rural districts tend to have to be jacks of all trades, and this report reflects the wide spectrum of duties undertaken by your officers.

I would make particular reference to the report on the housing circumstances of the area which begins on page 5. Members will note that a special analysis of the Council's housing waiting list has been undertaken in an effort to explain why, after so many years of quite intensive building, there are more cases on the waiting list in 1969 than there were in 1963.

I would like to thank all the Members of the Council for their support during the year, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the practical interest they have taken in our work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



T. F. Harding
Senior Public Health Inspector

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1969

1.	<u>Number of new houses and flats erected during the year</u>	
	(a) by local authority	57
	(b) private enterprise	35
2.	<u>Inspection of Dwellings during the year</u>	
	(i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts	9
	(ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	5
	(iii) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	5
	(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	9
3.	<u>Remedy of Defects by Informal Action</u>	
	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	5
4.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)</u>	
	(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 -	
	(i) number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-
	(ii) number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -	
	(a) by owners	-
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	-
	(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -	
	(i) number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	2
	(ii) number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -	
	(a) by owners	-
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	-
	(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 27 of the Housing Act, 1957 -	
	(i) number of Demolition Orders made	2
	(ii) number of houses demolished as result of formal action	-
	(iii) number of undertakings accepted	1
	(iv) number of undertakings completed	-
	(v) number of houses where Closing Orders were made	1
	(vi) number of houses where Closing Orders were cancelled	1
	(vii) number of houses closed as a result of Closing Orders or undertakings	2

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1969 (Cont'd.)

(D) Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of the
Housing Act, 1957 -

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| (i) | number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made | - |
| (ii) | number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | - |
| (iii) | number of houses demolished due to Public Health Acts | - |
| (iv) | number of unfit houses purchased by Council and demolished as part of reconstruction schemes | - |

(E) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 -

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| (i) | number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | - |
| (ii) | number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were cancelled, as a result of premises having been made fit | - |

5. Housing Act, 1957, Part IV - Overcrowding

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| (i) | number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year | 2 |
| (ii) | number of cases discovered during year | 3 |
| (iii) | number of cases abated during year | 3 |

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Movable dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Refuse collection and disposal and collection of abandoned cars						...	1,500
Bakehouses and Factories and Outworkers ...				...	...	...	39
Visits made by Inspector re Pest Control ..				...	...	...	64
Visits made by Operator for Treatment ...				...	...	...	1,245
Visits made by Operator for Survey ...				...	...	...	666
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits (Schools, Agriculture, etc.)...						...	43
Housing Visits under Public Health Act, 1936				...	...	...	33
Visits under Housing Act, 1957 ...				...	...	...	43
Overcrowding and allocation of houses				...	...	...	1,145
Verminous premises ...				...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Housing Visits				...	...	...	197
Improvement Grants ...				...	...	...	144
Infectious Diseases ...				...	...	...	13
Slaughterhouse Visits ...				...	...	...	NIL
Visits to Butchers, Fishmongers, etc.				...	...	...	9
Visits to Grocers and Greengrocers				...	...	...	20
Visits to food preparing premises generally				...	...	...	30
Market stalls and delivery vehicles				...	...	...	9
Visits to licensed houses				...	...	...	14
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds ...				...	...	...	22
Milk Sampling Visits ...				...	...	...	145
Ice Cream Sampling Visits				...	...	...	42
Miscellaneous Food Visits				...	...	...	13
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises				...	...	...	84
							<hr/>
							5,959
							<hr/>

HOUSING

In my report for 1968 I drew the Council's attention to the fact that the total number of housing cases on the waiting list had risen compared with the list for 1963, although the number of urgent cases was less. When the figures for 1969 were compiled I noted with some alarm that not only had the total number of cases on the list risen significantly from 416 to 554, but that the number of urgent cases residing in the district had risen from 75 in 1968 to 135 in 1969, and that, for the first time in 16 years, the total of urgent cases residing in the district exceeded, and by a substantial number, the total of similar cases in 1963. This is illustrated by the table which immediately follows:-

TABLE A

Waiting List for Council Houses

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Urgent cases residing in district	105	102	83	101	102	75	135
Non-urgent cases residing in district	192	198	223	225	222	233	275
<u>Total</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>410</u>
Urgent cases residing <u>outside</u> district	25	10	14	14	12	11	19
Non-urgent cases residing <u>outside</u> district	78	60	62	69	96	97	125
<u>Total</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>144</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>554</u>

I therefore decided that we should undertake an analysis of the housing waiting list, and the results of this analysis are given in tabulated form in Tables B and C below.

Table B shows the length of time that individual applicants have been on the waiting list, and Table C shows the principal reasons given by applicants for applying for Council accommodation. I should make it clear that the totals in Tables B and C do not correspond with the total for 1969 in Table A. This is because the analysis of the list was conducted during July 1970 when the total number of applicants had again increased. It should also be noted that many applicants give several reasons for wanting to move into a Council house, and what we have tried to do is to isolate as far as possible the principal reason. Applications which would normally come into the urgent category are marked with an asterisk in Table C.

TABLE B

Housing Waiting List - As at 31st July, 1970

Length of Time on Waiting List

Less than six months ...	...	...	...	...	110
Six to twelve months ...	...	...	...	...	133
One to two years .	...	...	...	...	111
Two to four years.	...	...	...	...	128
Over four years ..	...	...	...	...	96
				<u>Total</u>	<u>578</u>

TABLE C

Reasons given for applying for Council Houses

<u>Reason</u> <u>No.</u>						<u>Inside</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Outside</u> <u>District</u>
1 *	Sharing house:-	(in rooms ...	...	...	...	4	4
2 *		(with parents	...	...	...	44	7
3 *	Living in a caravan with children	.	...	...		13	4
4	Living in a caravan without children	...	...			8	1
5 *	Living in house too small for family but not sharing	.	...	...		6	1
6 *	Moral overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1	-
7 *	Health reasons	..	...	...	...	30	5
8 *	Under Notice to Quit from M.O.D. Married Quarters					9	5
9 *	Under Notice to Quit from private property	...				23	4
10	Possible Notice to Quit from private property	.				1	-
11 *	Difficult access with pram (flats)	...	...			4	-
12 *	Family with children in 'No Children Allowed' accommodation	.	...			1	-
13 *	Unmarried couple with baby living apart from one another	.	...	...		2	-
14 *	Married couple living apart - lack of room	...				1	1
15	House without modern amenities	...	...	...		29	2
16	Tied houses including agricultural workers, and W.D. employees, but <u>not</u> those in M.Q.'s.	...				123	12
17	Tied M.O.D. Married Quarters	...	...	...		51	41
18	Wishing to move into district for family reasons					-	32
19	Wishing to move into district for employment reasons					-	17
20	Would like to move within district for employment reasons	...	...			3	-
21	Financial reasons	...	...	...	...	16	8
22	No play space for children	..	...	...	...	1	1
23	House too large	.	...	...	...	10	2
24	"Want a Council House" (no other specific reason given)	.	...	...		7	4
25	Applicants waiting to get married	.	...	...		15	1
26	Temporary letting, feel insecure	...	...			4	1
27	Settled in accommodation, but applying just in case					3	-
28	Isolated house	..	...	...	...	1	-
29	Moved to another address	...	...	...	...	2	1
30	Requiring Old People's Accommodation	...	...			6	6
<u>Total</u>						<u>418</u>	<u>160</u>

Unfortunately we do not have records showing the waiting lists for previous years similarly broken down, and therefore it has not been possible to detect any trends from this exercise. However, I propose to undertake a similar survey annually in future, and comparisons will then become much more interesting. It is possible to obtain certain conclusions from the information that we now have, and I should like to draw the Council's attention to the following points:-

1. The very small number (29) requiring modern amenities (reason No. 15). This surely reflects the considerable increase in the standard of amenity in the average house that has occurred during recent years and is a fruit of the Council's improvement grant policy.
2. The very large number (123) who wish to move out of tied accommodation (reason No. 16). These tied houses, whether in agriculture or Army Department ownership, will be mostly satisfactory houses, and this represents the desire of employees to change, perhaps to more remunerative employment. It is difficult to foresee the time when the housing stock will be large enough to permit movements of this kind on a large scale.
3. Under reason No. 17 we have noted separately the number of applicants who have applied for Council housing from Ministry of Defence Married Quarters. The Council will note that there are 92 such applicants, of whom 51 are resident in the district and 41 outside. A small number of these 41 will have B.F.P.O. addresses or will be stationed elsewhere in the United Kingdom, but the great majority will be in Married Quarters in the Tidworth area, just over our border in South Tidworth, in the area of Andover Rural District Council. I have commented on several occasions on the wholly artificial nature of this boundary, and it may very well be that the great majority of the service personnel who have applied to us from within the Andover rural district may not know that they are outside our borders. I am satisfied that the great majority of them apply because they see us building in North Tidworth, and it is clear to me that rehousing, even over a period of years, some 90 applicants from both sides of the border will not be possible for this Council, going it alone. The placing of the boundary through the middle of Tidworth is a ludicrous survival of a past age, and is directly responsible for much confusion and, indeed, misery, on the part of applicants who do not understand that they should direct their applications to another local authority. The present extent of this problem is shown by the 14 applicants (reason 8) who are at this present time under Notice to Quit from Ministry of Defence Married Quarters.
4. I would draw the Council's attention to the surprisingly large number of 23 applicants who are under Notice to Quit (reason No. 9) from private property. It is true that some of these Notices to Quit are in the nature of warning shots from landlords, and remain outstanding for years, but this figure may go some way to satisfy those members who are regularly asked to take in evicted families over the heads of urgent cases in their own villages.
5. It is interesting to note that there are no less than 49 applicants who wish to move into the district for family reasons or for employment reasons (reasons 18 and 19).

6. Whilst we do not normally regard financial reasons (reason No. 21) as requiring urgent treatment, it is a fact that several young couples with children living in expensive furnished accommodation are on our books, and there is no doubt that the large percentage of their income which goes on rent often causes serious hardship.

It can be deduced from Table C that no less than 138 cases living in the district could be graded as urgent by anybody's standards, and that there are a number of non-urgent cases on the fringe who are probably suffering hardship. Analysing these housing applications has been an interesting and somewhat salutary exercise, and I am more than ever convinced that the Council will need to continue building at the same rate as now for some time to come before we can truthfully say that there is no-one in this district who is urgently in need of a house.

SPECIAL HOUSING AND THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY

During 1969 the Council's second grouped accommodation for the elderly at Aston House, Pewsey, was completed. This consists of 20 single persons flat-lets and 4 two-person flats, together with warden's accommodation in the main building, and three separate bungalows which are linked to the warden's flat by an alarm bell system. The communications system in the main building is similar to that installed at the Council's other grouped accommodation at Erskine House, Ludgershall, and is a very sophisticated speech inter-communication system designed and installed by Messrs. Tunstall Byers Ltd. Although expensive, this inter-communication system has proved to be very satisfactory indeed, and its ease of working has been much appreciated, both by the warden and by the residents.

The Pewsey grouped accommodation was much easier to let than had been the case at Ludgershall where, as I reported in 1968, there was not inconsiderable initial resistance. In both parishes since the premises were opened, their attractions have become more evident to elderly people, and a waiting list has started to build up. As a result, during 1969 the Council resolved to extend the Ludgershall grouped accommodation by a further 8 flats, and it is hoped that this extension will be completed during 1970. I am perfectly certain that more of this accommodation will be required as time goes on, and I feel that before very long the Council will need to build another such grouped scheme in one or more of the major parishes. In my view the next such scheme should be built in Tidworth, where there is a considerable population from which to draw, and where the Council already have an admirable site near to the centre of the village on which to build.

Much trouble had been experienced in this district in finding suitable premises from which to operate meals on wheels services, and the Council accepted my suggestion that the kitchens at both grouped accommodations should be equipped for this service. This has proved to be a very satisfactory way of arranging these matters, and I am pleased to note that this is now being advocated by the Wiltshire County Council as a policy. It is interesting to note that not only do the residents in the grouped accommodation partake of the meals on wheels, but some of them help in the preparation of the food.

The Council have set up, with the co-operation of other interested bodies, committees concerned with the care of the elderly, on which the Medical Officer of Health and I serve. These meetings bring together all the officers and voluntary workers who are concerned with the care of old people, and provide an ideal method of collecting and disseminating information as to their needs.

A considerable amount of your officers' time was, as in previous years, spent on visiting, helping and supervising families in difficulties, in co-operation with the County Council's Children's Department.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the early part of 1969 not many applications for improvement grant were received, but the passing by Parliament of the Housing Act, 1969, which increased grants substantially and freed owners from restrictions, is bound to have an effect, and I fully anticipate that the upsurge of interest shown towards the end of 1969 will continue into 1970.

Details for 1969 are tabulated below.

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Discretionary Grants approved	50	56	39	26	26	19	16
Standard Grants approved	14	12	11	9	14	20	17
Average total cost of discretionary improve- ment schemes	£851	£897	£867	£1,165	£867	£963	£1,346
Average percentage grant	38.2%	36.9%	36.1%	28.3%	38.3%	34.0%	40.0%
No. of houses improved during year by Standard Grant							6
No. of houses improved during year by Discretionary Grant							12

WATER SUPPLY

In my report for 1968 I referred to the fact that the South Wilts Water Board were now responsible for the supply of water to the district. However, we have continued to maintain a high level of sampling of the water as supplied, and details are given in the table below. It will be particularly noted that, bearing in mind its small size, close attention was paid to the private supply to the parishes of Alton Priors and Barnes. The Water Board, at the Council's request, have undertaken to provide a mains supply to these two parishes in substitution for the existing supply which is subject to intermittent pollution, and pending the carrying out of the necessary pipe laying and construction of the reservoir, which will take place in 1970, a close watch was kept on the supply.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES - SAMPLE RESULTS

Netheravon, Enford, Upavon, Charlton, Rushall, Manningsfords, North Newnton, Pewsey, Woodborough, Wilcot, Burbage, Milton Lilbourne, Easton Royal, Collingbourne Kingston and Ducis	Chlorinated supply from bore holes owned by the South Wilts Water Board. pH value 7.9. Total hardness 199 p.p.m. 46 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
Ludgershall, Chutes	Chlorinated water purchased in bulk from Southampton Corporation Waterworks. pH value 7.5. Total hardness 235 p.p.m. 45 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
Wootton Rivers	Chlorinated supply from deep well. pH value 7.1. Total hardness 285 p.p.m. 45 bacteriological samples taken. 1 non-faecal pollution. 1 faecal pollution.
North Tidworth	Chlorinated water from War Department source. pH value 7.5. Total hardness 210 p.p.m. 44 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
Everleigh	Chlorinated water from War Department source. 46 bacteriological samples taken. 1 non-faecal pollution.
Altons	Private supply, not chlorinated. 56 samples taken. 45 satisfactory. 11 non-faecal pollution.

The table which follows shows the mode of supply to dwellings in the district:-

PARISH	Number of dwellings supplied from public mains		Population supplied from public mains		
	Inside the dwelling	By Standpipe	Inside the dwelling	By Standpipe	
Alton	2	-	6	-	Private piped supply.
Burbage	386	2	849.2	4.4	
Charlton	13	-	47.6	-	
Chute	83	1	249	3	
Chute Forest	30	-	81	-	
Collingbourne Ducis	200	-	519.6	-	
" Kingston	102	1	355.5	3	
Easton Royal	84	-	193	-	
Enford	202	4	626	12.4	
Everleigh	63	-	206.6	-	
Fittleton	88	1	281.4	3.2	
Huish	1	-	2.4	-	
Ludgershall	(748	-	2,468	-	
	(70	-	231	-	
Manningford	138	2	358	6	Public supply. Min. of Defence supply.
Milton Lilbourne	122	-	366	-	
Netheravon	327	10	1,232	37.7	
North Newnton	128	3	296	7.5	
North Tidworth	(263	-	1,157	-	
	(1,966	-	8,650	-	
Pewsey	779	1	2,259	2.9	
Rushall	11	-	33	-	
Upavon	(274	-	931	-	
	(231	-	724	-	
Wilcot	197	-	531	-	Council Estate Private & Min. of Defence lettings. Min. of Defence supply.
Wilsford	6	-	18	-	
Woodborough	96	2	240	5	
Wootton Rivers	79	-	197.5	-	

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

During the year the refuse collection service was maintained on a weekly basis to all private houses in the district, and twice weekly to certain military establishments, by four vehicles manned by a labour force of 12 men. A paper baler and a tractor driver are occupied full-time at the Council's central tip at Everleigh. Due to labour difficulties of one sort and another the service was maintained only with great difficulty at various times during the year, and with so small a labour force the problems of maintaining a regular and adequate service often became very acute during times of sickness and holidays.

Vehicles used on the service were a 50 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic delivered in April, 1969, two Shelvoke and Drewry 35 cu. yd. Pakamatics, one Shelvoke and Drewry 25 cu. yd. fore and aft tipper. Prior to the introduction of the large Pakamatic, all the refuse collection rounds were carefully checked and certain revisions were made to take into account alterations and enlargements of certain villages, and to make the best use of this large vehicle.

A problem that arose during the year was that of the increasing costs of vehicle maintenance. I suppose it is inevitable that inflationary tendencies should appear here also, and the cost of spares and of labour to repair these large vehicles is becoming very high. A great deal of this work is specialist in character and has to be carried out by the vehicle manufacturer. At other times, and for other repairs, we have of necessity to rely on local garages and, due to the fact that these vehicles are worked hard every day, it is normally only possible to have repairs carried out at weekends and at overtime rates. As a result of these problems the Council authorised me to investigate the possibility of our carrying out repair and maintenance by direct labour, but it was found that, even allowing for all the vehicles operated by the Council, there would be no cost saving if vehicle repairs were carried out by direct labour. In this connection I do feel that our practice of writing vehicles down over seven years, which is a very tempting practice bearing in mind their high capital cost, is mistaken, since we have found that these vehicles are very expensive to run in the last two years of their life, and I feel that there is a good case for writing them down over five or six years.

The Council's plastic sack refuse collection scheme continued to make reasonable progress during the year, and by the end of December 536 houses (including 218 Married Quarters) had been equipped with sacks and sack holders. Proposals were in hand for the change over of a further 658 Married Quarters in North Tidworth, owned by the Ministry of Defence, to this system of refuse storage during the early part of 1970.

The introduction of Heavy Goods Vehicles Drivers Licences was considered by the Council during the year and caused much concern as it seemed to us, and this contention has been borne out by later events, that whilst improvements in driver training were long overdue, legislation would inevitably result in a serious shortage of drivers. In order to minimise the effect of this legislation the Council authorised me to get our spare drivers as much driving experience as would be necessary for them to qualify for the new licences, and in addition arrangements were made for drivers to go on to training courses run by the Local Government Training Board.

I am glad to be able to report that in a period of considerable labour unrest amongst local authority workers, the Council's employees did not go on strike, but I am bound to say that the wage settlement which was finally arrived at on a national basis did, by its destruction of certain differentials which were particular to our men, cause us a great deal of difficulty, and continues to do so.

WASTE PAPER AND SALVAGE

Output reached the lowest ebb for some years during the year. This was due to a variety of factors, notably a shortage of labour, poor waste paper prices and, to be truthful, a disinclination on the part of the men to put in the necessary extra effort to collect and bale paper. As a result the waste paper bonus system was revised to make it more attractive to the men towards the end of the year, and it is hoped that, providing there is freedom from serious sickness amongst the men during 1970, output will be much better, bearing in mind the fact that prices for baled waste paper are now on the upturn.

It is clear that as the district develops, and as there is the possibility of an extension of our Ministry of Defence Contract to additional premises, then in order to keep labour costs down productivity must increase, and during the year I obtained from the Council authority to look into the question of a productivity agreement with the men.

SALVAGE RESULTS 1969

	£. s. d
Waste Paper	429. 7. 6
Rags	111.10. 0
Metals	38. 0. 3
Scrap Vehicles and other metals from Tip	146. 0. 0
	<hr/>
	£724.17. 9
	<hr/>

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There were no developments of note during 1969 in this important sphere of the Council's activities. Work continued on the Collingbourne Ducis and Kingston Sewerage Scheme, and it is anticipated that it will be finished in 1970. Preparatory work by the Consulting Engineers also continued on the Council's North-Western Parishes Scheme, and a meeting was held by your officers with Ministry officials to discuss the scheme in outline. In the meantime a number of serious nuisances continue to exist in this area due to difficult drainage conditions, and whilst various measures were taken to deal with these nuisances in the absence of main sewerage, they could only be palliative in character.

NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year energetic efforts were made to ensure that contractors' road-breaking equipment was suitably silenced, with a considerable measure of success. It is clear that in practice the law on this subject is sadly deficient in that it is necessary (a) to prove a nuisance, and (b) to go through the rather long-winded procedure of serving Abatement Notices and then getting the contractor into Court, by which time he will probably have packed up and finished the job. In my view a byelaw requiring that drills should be silenced is urgently necessary, or some amending legislation which unequivocally states that an unsilenced drill is a nuisance, as this is the only way in which we will be able to deal effectively with the contractor who is determined not to be co-operative.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year 110 visits were made to food premises in the district. This is an unwelcome reduction compared with the 171 made in 1968. Although the standard of food hygiene in the district is generally good, a reduction in the number of visits cannot be sustained without a decline in standards. This reduction, however, is a necessary reflection of the high work load sustained in 1969.

No serious contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found. 9 vehicles involved in food delivery were inspected under the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, and the following contraventions were found:-

1. No First Aid Box 1
2. No washing facilities on the vehicle 2

All these matters were remedied after the owners had been notified.

It became clear during the year that the standards of cleanliness of some of the equipment on vehicles used for the manufacture and sale of soft ice-cream were not all that could be desired, and as a result a regular regime of sampling was instituted. Unfortunately most of these vendors are not based in this rural district and as a result, not only are they extremely difficult to catch for sampling purposes, but it is not possible to visit them at their base premises (if these, in some cases, actually exist). Co-operation between ourselves and the neighbouring districts has been quite good, however, and in general the standards of the samples has been satisfactory, as is shown by the following table:-

ICE-CREAM SAMPLE RESULTS 1969

4 samples soft ice-cream - Grade 1
4 samples soft ice-cream - Grade 2
1 sample soft ice-cream - Grade 3.

In addition 4 swabs were taken from equipment for bacteriological investigation.

The following table shows the numbers and types of food premises in the district, and also shows the extent to which they comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 (provision of wash basins and sinks).

<u>Type and No. of premises</u>		<u>No. Complying with Reg. 16</u>	<u>No. to which Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. Complying with Reg. 19</u>
Butchers	11	11	11	11
Bakers	7	7	7	7
Fishmongers	6	6	6	6
Greengrocers	5	5	5	5
Cafes	7	7	7	7
Fishfriers	4	4	4	4
Food Factories	8	8	8	8
Grocers and General Stores	55	55	39	39
Licensed Houses and Clubs	53	53	53	53

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

1. For the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream	-	64
2. For the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	-	1
3. For fish frying	-	4
4. For sausage manufacture and preparation of meats	-	9

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no Egg Pasteurisation plants in this district.

Unsound Food Condemned

The following food was condemned by your inspectors as unsound during 1969:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Frozen Food (breakdown of refrigerators) ..			65
(incorrectly stored)			2
Fruit and Groceries			81

Poultry Inspection

1. No. of poultry processing premises within the district	1
2. No. of visits made to these premises ...	12
3. Total number of birds processed during the year	72,000
4. Types of birds processed	Broilers and Turkeys
5. Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	2%
6. Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	600 lbs.

It should be noted that no evisceration of poultry takes place at the premises concerned; the birds are merely killed and plucked.

MILK SAMPLING

208 milk samples of all kinds were taken during the year, compared with 211 during 1968. There is now only one retailer of unpasteurised milk operating in the district.

The following table gives details of the samples taken and the test results, and it will be noted that once again there were rather too many failures of samples to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. In each case the failure was investigated and the dairymen appropriately advised.

Sample Tests 1969

Samples subjected to Methylene Blue Test	139
Samples subjected to Ascheffenburg Test	162
Samples of untreated milk failing Methylene Blue Test ..	5
Samples of heat treated milk failing Methylene Blue Test	2
Samples of heat treated milk failing Ascheffenburg Test	NIL
Samples subjected to biological examination for presence of Tubercle Bacilli ...	7
Samples showing positive tuberculosis reaction	NIL
Samples subjected to Ring Test for presence of Brucella Abortus	7
Samples showing positive reaction to Ring Test	NIL
Samples of milk showing positive Brucella Abortus reaction on biological examination ...	NIL
Samples of sterilised milk subjected to Turbidity Test .	16
Samples of milk failing Turbidity Test	NIL

PEST CONTROL

257 premises were treated for infestation by rats and mice during 1969, an increase of 53 over the previous year. This bears out my contention expressed in the previous annual report that continued vigilance is required in respect of this pest. In particular it was found necessary to deal with one or two very serious infestations on farms where the rat population had got out of control. Rodent control by specialists is expensive because of the amount of time involved, particularly on a large farm, and there is a very marked tendency for farm labour to be used for poison baiting. This use of unskilled labour for a skilled job, and a tendency not to pay proper attention to bait and poison quality, often leads to a quite disastrous build-up of the rat population and your rodent operator has, on several occasions, had his work cut out to bring these infestations under control.

The presence of Warfarin-resistant rats in other parts of the country has caused a number of scares which, on investigation, have proved to be due to inadequate baiting methods rather than the presence of resistant rats, and I am glad to say that there is, at the present time, no evidence of Warfarin resistance amongst rats in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Only 13 visits were made in connection with the control of infectious diseases during 1969, and this is the second year in succession in which the total has only just reached double figures. Whether this is due to satisfactory health conditions and a good standard of hygiene in the district I would not like to say, but one can only hope, from the point of view of workload, that it will continue.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

There are five premises in the district which are licensed to boil pig swill, but only three are actually in operation. Visits of inspection were made to all of them during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

During 1969 there were 82 licensed caravans in the district, compared with 106 in 1967. Of this total 75 are concentrated on three large sites. There is no doubt that, as I mentioned in my previous annual report, the demand for residential caravans will continue to decline as the housing stock improves, and it is not difficult to foresee the time when the only caravans in the district will be on the large sites with, possibly, a very small number outside which have been licensed for very special and temporary needs. This would be a very desirable state of affairs.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

84 visits of inspection in connection with the above-mentioned Act were made during 1969, and the table that immediately follows shows the number of defects found and remedied during the course of these inspections.

No Certificates of Exemption were applied for during the year, and in general occupiers and owners of registered premises were very co-operative in rectifying defects. No accidents were reported during the year. One serious case of overcrowding in a local bank was found towards the end of the year, and the bank were actively considering how best to deal with this problem.

Tables A and C, also given below, are extracted from the official report made by the Council to the Ministry of Labour. They show how the inspections were made up and provide an analysis of persons employed in the registered premises.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Inadequate cleanliness	0	1
Inadequate heating	1	0
Inadequate lighting	0	1
Inadequate washing facilities	1	3
Defects in floors, passages and stairs	3	2
No First Aid Boxes	1	2
Inadequate accommodation for outdoor clothing	0	0
Absence of Thermometer	4	2
Inadequate ventilation	2	1
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	0	0
Inadequate seating	0	0
Inadequate guarding of dangerous machinery	2	1
Abstract of Act not shown	6	3
Overcrowding	1	0

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	1	24	6
Retail shops	2	77	20
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	11	11
Fuel storage depots	-	5	2
<u>TOTALS</u>	4	126	41

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN
REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	55
Retail shops	281
Wholesale departments, warehouses	52
Catering establishments open to public	6
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	29
<u>Total</u>	423
<u>Total Males</u>	209
<u>Total Females</u>	214

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT
OF PEWSEY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	39	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	50	39	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4) By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing) Making Apparel) etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	1	-	-	-	-	-



